

New Vocational Reporting and Improvement System Will Impact All Vocational Programs

Job Corps students who complete a trade, secure employment in their chosen career and maintain a job are the success stories of Job Corps.

Projected Implementation

Date:

JULY 1, 2003

Highlighting student accomplishments helps nourish the program, keeping it focused on greater retention in the job market.

The National Office of Job Corps has created the Vocational Performance Improvement Committee (VPIC), to change the current Vocational Evaluation System (VES). The new VES, scheduled to launch in July 2003, will evaluate all vocational programs and

drive the system to measure and enhance the weight of long-term labor market attachment.

Alan Lafferman of the National Office of Job Corps presented preliminary information about the upcoming VES to the Region II Vocational Taskforce at its first meeting in October 2002.

“We need a greater focus on both vocational and employability skills attainment because they increase marketability in the workplace,” said Lafferman. “The new VES will allow system managers to better evaluate the long-term effectiveness of vocational programs, and, where needed, develop and implement Performance Improvement Plans.”

Lafferman said the goal of the system is not to arbitrarily eliminate programs, but to ensure that every effort is being made to improve programs and maximize results for graduates. The new VES will also help meet federal and legislative accountability requirements and provide useful feedback.

VPIC members consist of Regional Directors, Project Managers, Center Directors, Deputy Center Directors, National Training Contractors, Vocational Managers, Vocational Instructors and Job Corps National Office Staff.

Sharon Mumpower, a VPIC member and the National Deputy Director for the International Union of Operation Engineers (IUOE), was a guest speaker at the Region’s taskforce meeting in March. She also presented information about the upcoming VES changes.

“The new VES will be easy to understand, measure all vocational trades equally and increase the weights of the six- and 12-month placement and earnings core indicators,” Mumpower said.

- Goals of designing the new reporting and improvement system include:
- Selecting and defining core indicators of performance that drive long-term labor market attachment.
 - Establishing parameters for acceptable overall performance.
 - Identifying sanctions and incentives.
 - Establishing corrective action processes.

Recently, the VPIC completed the development of the draft system and distributed copies to all Regional Directors for review. After their feedback is received, a revised draft will be distributed to field staff for review and comments. When all changes have been incorporated, the draft will be reviewed by National Office staff and presented to National Director Trigg for his final approval. Every effort is being made to implement the new system effective July 1, 2003.

REGION II VOCATIONAL TASKFORCE: WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

The Region II Vocational Taskforce is a committee of Regional Office Staff, vocational contractors, vocational managers and instructors. The taskforce was created to gather information on vocational issues, linkages, job placements and vocational assessments throughout CDSS. All Region II center operators and interagency partners are represented.

The taskforce had its first meeting in October 2002, organizing itself into six committees, including: **OA committee, CPP committee, linkage committee, placement committee, vocational assessment committee** and the **newsletter committee**. These committees are researching issues to help improve vocational training within the Region.

At the March 2003 taskforce meeting, the Regional Office addressed several issues for vocational managers and instructors to review:

- Increasing long-term attachment to workforce, graduate wage earnings, and graduate employment in new and emerging labor markets.
- Evaluating center trades and determining if students can earn extra certifications, thereby increasing student employability. For example, students in landscaping can earn a pesticides certification.

This newsletter is an introductory issue to the Vocational Taskforce, and is distributed to vocational contractors, managers and instructors. Unfold the newsletter and use the inside as a poster. It describes Advanced Training opportunities in Region II. For extra copies or to submit an idea for the next issue, please contact Tom McDermott in the Regional Office.

The Vocational Taskforce is your resource for vocational training news, as well as a useful tool for sharing information throughout the Region. The workgroup looks forward to providing information from the Regional and National levels and keeping you aware of new initiatives.



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ADVANCED TRAINING PROGRAMS

Advanced Training (AT) programs are designed to provide specialized training for students who have demonstrated the interest and ability to benefit from additional training opportunities. AT programs are cost-effective and offered at designated Job Corps centers considered magnet centers. Students from all Job Corps centers are eligible. Currently, there are 14 AT programs at 12 centers nationwide. Three centers – Earle C. Clements, Potomac and Woodstock – are in the Philadelphia Region.

All Advanced Training programs offer top-level training and career opportunities for their graduates. These programs benefit Job Corps centers transferring students to the programs. Transferring centers immediately receive a placement credit and all academic and vocational gains achieved before the transfer. Upon successful completion of an AT program, both the transferring center and the receiving center record the wages and become eligible for the six- and 12-month credits for that student.

Automotive Training Program (United Auto Workers – Labor Employment and Training Corporation)

Location: Earle C. Clements Job Corps Center
UAW-LETTC provides quality advanced automotive, auto body and medium-heavy truck training. The program has been evaluated by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) and certified by the Institute of Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). Its mission is to train students by industry standards and place them in high-paying jobs with growth potential, such as at dealerships and other high-volume repair facilities. The program uses state-of-the-art equipment and repair techniques, providing both classroom and hands-on instruction. Areas of training

offered are: Engine Repair; Suspension and Steering; Brakes; Engine Performance; Electrical/Electronics; Heating and Air Conditioning; Transmission/Transaxle; Parts Specialist; Collision Repair and Refinishing; and Medium/Heavy Truck Repair.

For More Information, Call:
Dan Hall, (800) 362-5579.

Requirements:

- Must have completed a basic Job Corps training program prior to application (not limited to basic automotive training)

Commercial Drivers Training

Location: Earle C. Clements Job Corps Center
Roadway Express has partnered with Earle C. Clements JCC to offer a training program for students with no truck-driving experience. Students train from four to six months to become professional truck drivers. The training involves both classroom work and hands-on driving with Roadway employees.

For More Information, Call:
Earle C. Clements JCC, (800) 452-6304.

Requirements:

- Be between the ages of 20½ and 24
- Have a current, valid driver’s license for two years and clean driving record
- Pass a drug screen and physical exam
- Have a high school diploma or GED

Culinary Arts

Location: Woodstock JCC Development Center
The Advanced Culinary Arts program is a 30-week, 390-hour training program that partners with the U.S. Department of Labor, Woodstock Job Corps Career Development Center and Anne Arundel Community College. Classes are held at Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, Md., with transportation from the center provided. The program offers instruction and hands-on experience in the food-service industry. Each student is provided with the necessary skills to enter the hospitality industry as an entry-level line cook or

assistant sous chef. Potential salaries range between \$12 and \$15 an hour. In addition to food preparation and production, students learn the administrative side of the food industry, including purchasing and cost control.

For More Information, Call:
Dana Kelly or Warren Covington, (800) 949-9401.

Requirement:

- Must have completed an approved Job Corps Culinary Arts program

Transportation Communications Union (TCU Advanced Training – Transportation Systems and Office Technology)

Location: Potomac Job Corps Center
The Transportation Communications International Union has a contract with Job Corps to provide an Advanced Transportation Clerical Program for students. TCU emphasizes transportation-related employment in the railroad industry and in administrative office support with transportation companies, the federal government and the private sector. This program has evolved into one of the top two TCU programs nationwide. Students go on to high-paying positions with AMTRAK, Norfolk Southern and CSX Railroads.

For More Information, Call:
Christine Short, (800) 745-6345, Ext. 3118.

Requirements:

- Be enrolled in Job Corps
- Be between 17½ and 25 years old

- Finish first level of clerical, retail sales, accounting, data entry, hotel/motel or other business/clerical trade (if transferring)
- Pass a reading comprehension TABE test with 570 D level and mathematics computation TABE test with 531 D level
- Pass an interview for entrance into Potomac TCU
- Have a high school diploma or GED certificate
- Agree to attend classes daily and be on time each day
- Be willing to study office, business and transportation type courses
- Consider relocating for employment
- No history of serious criminal behavior
- Be willing to work various shifts and days
- Have a current valid driver’s license or obtain one while in Job Corps

